

Message Text

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67

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 SP-02 AID-05

NSC-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03 FEA-01

OES-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INT-05 AGR-05 /076 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3890

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 0356

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FOR DOWN -GRADING INSTRUCTIONS)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, ENRG, TC

SUBJ: PARSKY LETTER TO UAE OFFICIALS

REF: (A) STATE 23430; (B) ABU DHABI 273; (C) STATE 32654

1. WITH RESPECT TO QUESTION OF CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATIONS, I DO NOT AGREE THAT LANGUAGE WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON ON THIS POINT "SHOULD PREVENT CONFUSION." WASHINGTON TEXT STATES THAT US EMBASSY SHOULD BE PRINCIPAL POINT OF CONTACT "IN ABU DHABI" (WHICH IS SELF EVIDENT) AND THEN GOES ON TO WELCOME "DIRECT CONTACTS" BETWEEN UAE EMBASSY AND US OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON. LEFT AS IT STANDS, TEXT INVITES CONFUSION.

2. THIS YOINTHVA IMPORTANT AND MORE CENTRAL THAN MAY BE IMMEDIATELY APPARENT TO SUCCESS OF WHAT USG IS TRYING TO LAUNCH HERE. I HAVE BEEN IN ARAB WORLD LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT FOLLOW-THROUGH IS ALWAYS WEAKEST ASPECT OF ARAB GOVERNMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, AND THIS IS DOUBLY TRUE OF UAE AND ABU DHABI GOVERNMENTS. IF WE ARE SERIOUS IN OUR DESIRE TO SEE SOME OF THESE INCIPIENT IDEAS GRADUATE FROM THE LEVEL OF VERBIAGE INTO CONCRETE PROJECTS OF BILATERAL COOPERATION IT WILL TAKE CONSTANT DAY-TO-DAY FOLLOWING WITH MINISTRIES CONCERNED. ONLY THIS EMBASSY IS IN POSITION TO DO THIS (RAPIDITY WITH WHICH UAE OFFICIALS CAN CHANGE
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THEIR MINDS ABOUT PROJECTS HERE IS EVIDENT FROM CHANGES THAT HAD

TO BE MADE IN PARSKY LETTER DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC AREAS OF INTEREST, CHANGES WE WILL BET SAEED GHUBBASH KNEW NOTHING ABOUT SIMPLY BECAUSE HIS GOVERNMENT CANNOT BE BOTHERED TO KEEP HIM INFORMED). FOREIGN MINISTRY HERE IS BOTH UNDERSTAFFED AND DISORGANIZED AND ANYTHING PLACED IN UAE EMBASSY-MFA CHANNELS HAS EXCELLENT CHANCE OF BEING FILED AWAY INTO OBLIVION.

3. I RECOMMEND THEREFORE THAT WE NOT FURTHER COMPLICATE ALREADY DIFFICULT TASK WE WILL HAVE IN ACHIEVING COORDINATION AND FOLLOW-THROUGH WITHIN UAEG BY INVITING TWO CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATIONS. WE SHOULD BE CLEAR ON THIS POINT AND I RECOMMEND THAT WE INCORPORATE INTO LETTER LANGUAGE I HAVE SUGGESTED.
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